(b) if so, the details of the scheme indicating the financial funding pattern; and

(c) the details of the amount allotted/released to the States including Delhi under the said scheme during the last and curent Five Year Plans?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourism circuits/destinations including camping spots under the Scheme of Product/infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits.

The Central Financial Assistance (CFA) of Rs. 1480.19 lakh was extended to State Governments/UT Administrations for development of 20 Camping Spots in the 10th and current Five Year Plan.

Hot-air balloon tourism

837. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to start hot-air balloon tourism for commercial tourist purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the States/regions where the project is proposed to be launched and whether it would also cover the Buddhist Centres of Bihar and Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots including promotion of adventure tourism/hot-air ballooning is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations including Bihar and Orissa. However, Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for development of tourism including adventure tourism, on the basis of the proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and *inter-se* priorities.

Development of island tourism in Orissa

838. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Orissa proposes development of island tourism in Chilika;

(b) whether it is also planning to organize tourist shopping of handicrafts with the support of the Centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Orissa also proposes to sell Orissa to international tourists; and

(e) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help the State to achieve the above objective?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned a project-Development of Chilika Lake as a Tourist Destination in the year 2005-06 for a total amount of Rs. 389.05 lakh.